undertaken by the Senior Officers in the field. Moreover, collection out of arrear demand in big dossier cases has also been given a focussed attention.

Confiscation of Weapons by Customs

1300. SHRI SATISHCHANDRA SITARAM PRADHAN: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that customs has confiscated a large number of weapons, very recently;

(b) whether it is also a fact that, some confiscated weapons are missing;

(c) whether it is a regular practice; and

(d) the details of confiscated and missing weapons during the last three years, airport-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI V. DHANANJAYA KUMAR) (a) There is no report of any recent confiscation of large number of weapons by Customs. However, in November, 1999, an import consignment of weapons comprising 43 Pistols/Revolvers, 20 Tackling Knives & 7 Laser Guided sights has been seized by Customs at Sahar Air Cargo Complex, Mumbai. The case is under investigation.

(b) The question does not arise as no weapons have been confiscated.

(c) Sporadic seizures (and their subsequent confiscation) of weapons unathorisedly imported/attempted to be smuggled are effected by Customs deployed at various entry points into the country.

(d) The Airport-wise details of weapons confiscated during the last 3 years are as under:

Sl. No.	Name of Airport		Details of Weapons confiscated	Date of confiscation
1.	Anna International Airport, Chennai	(i)	12 Pistols 15 Rifles 02 Barrels 50 Empty Magazines	15.10.98
		(ii)	01 Pistol 20 Cartridges	21.7.99
2.	C.S. International Airport, Sahar, Mumbai	(i) (ii)	02 Revolvers 01 Revolver	15.7.98 27.8.98

Delay in allotment of PAN numbers

1301. SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that there is an enormous delay in alloting PAN numbers to individual applicants;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether any time limit has been framed to allot the number to individuals;

(d) if so, the reasons for not adhering to time limit by the authorities to allot the PAN numbers; and

(e) the steps taken by Government to clear the backlog expeditiously?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI V. DHANANJAYA KUMAR): (a) and (b) As against 1,83,51,683 applications for allotment of Permanent Account Number (PAN) received upto 31.10.99, 1,55,46,795 applications have been processed and 1,41,54,424 PAN allotted upto 31.10.99. The delay in allotment of PAN to the remaining applicants is mainly due to incomplete information given in the application forms submitted by the applicants. This necessitates issue of deficiency letters. In all such